



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ UPDATE

BATON ROUGE – The Department of Environmental Quality is announcing that air samples taken from a plane flying over a fire on Charters Street in New Orleans showed no significant findings.

The Environmental Protection Agency flew a specially equipped plane, called ASPECT, that has the capability to take air samples and take aerial photographs.

The only readings were of ethylene, chlorinated methane and methanol. All were picked up at low levels directly in the plume. At the time, the plume was large enough and contained enough soot where DEQ would usually ask for a shelter in place. However, considering the circumstances around the area, one was not called for.

The two tanks reported earlier to be leaking are located at approximately mile marker 35 on the Mississippi River north of Venice. The location information has been reported to the Coast Guard, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office and EPA.

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